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secretaries showed marked improvement. It is interesting to note that some of the societies report contributions made to all benevolent causes. Probably the most interesting and gratifying business transacted was the action taken on the Mountain Mission work of our own Presbytery. Rev. H. H. Hudson presented the needs of this work, after which \$311 was quickly and cheerfully pledged by the representatives of the different societies. The new officers elected are: Treasurer, Miss Bella Burnet, Charlottesville; Secretary of Assembly's Home Missions, Miss Della Sanford, Orange; Secretary of Synodical and Presbyterian Home Missions, Miss Bessie Dinwiddie, Greenwood, Va. We were most delightfully entertained by the hospitable people of Charlottesville, and accept with pleasure the invitation to meet at Orange the coming year.

Mrs. S. W. Watkins, President.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

USEFULNESS OF CHEER.

M., June 12. Rejoice! Deut. 26:1-11.
T., June 13. Cheer brings health. Prov. 17:22.
W., June 14. Cheer lightens burden. Prov. 15:13-15.
T., June 15. Cheer brings hope. Acts 27:22-36.
F., June 16. Cheer brings confidence. John 14:1.
S., June 17. Joy imparted. Acts 2:25-28.
S., June 18. Topic—The Usefulness of Good Cheer. John 16:24-33.

What influence has our joy on others?
What effect on our work has joy?
What is the source of our cheerfulness?

"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

The children of God have more reason for rejoicing than any others. Their lives should be filled with joy and gladness. Unfortunately this is not always the case. Some are prone to gloom and discontent and sadness. "Why should the children of a king go mourning all their days?"

Deut. 26:1-11: The children of Israel were commanded to take each year a basket containing selections of all kinds of fruit from their land to the priests as a thank offering to God to express their rejoicing at God's deliverance of their nation from the bondage of Egypt, and for bringing them into a good land flowing with milk and honey.

They had great cause for rejoicing, but not so great as you who are reading these words. Compare this country to-day with the land of Canaan of that, and you must see how much more desirable is the home God has given you, than the one which He gave the Israelites. This is true as to the mere physical condition which make your life so pleasant and agreeable to you. Add to this all the spiritual blessings God has given you. You have the whole Bible, with all of its wonderful revelations, while the Israelites of that day had only the five books of Moses.

Your knowledge of the love and mercy of God is far greater than theirs. You know the plan of salvation, which includes the forgiveness of sins, through the Saviour, who has come. They could only look forward to the coming of a Saviour, of whom they had very indefinite ideas. They had great cause for rejoicing, and they brought their offerings to God. You have far greater cause. Are you bringing your offerings?

Prov. 17:22: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Scientists tell us that sadness, sorrow and especially such feelings as envy or hatred cause the secretion of a fluid which is poisonous to the human system and which often causes sickness. Its presence may be recognized by bitterness in the mouth.

On the other hand it is a well known fact that brightness and happiness are great helps to health.



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A merry heart not only does good physically, but it helps spiritually. A happy heart enables one to see things in a much better light than they would otherwise appear. God appears to the happy heart to be far more gracious than to the sad and gloomy.

A merry heart does good to others also. It is our duty as well as a privilege and it ought to be our pleasure to make others happy. If we are not happy ourselves, we cannot make others happy. It is a sin to make others sad, when we can avoid doing so.

Prov. 15:13-15: "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance." The true state of the heart shows itself in the countenance just as really as the fire in the stove manifests itself in the heat it gives out. Sadness is the heaviest burden any one can bear. This, like all other burdens, should be carried to God in prayer, "casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Acts 27:22-36: Paul in the midst of the violent storm was cheerful. The reason was that he believed God. He had committed himself and all that he had to God, and he was sure that He would keep that which he had committed unto Him. His cheerfulness was reflected in those about him. It caused the sailors and soldiers to have confidence in him and then to become cheerful themselves. We can have similar effect, if in this respect we are like Paul. It is the cheerful heart that in the darkness of the night looks forward with a confident hope to the rising of the sun.

John 14:1: Why should the heart be troubled? There should be the utmost confidence in the Christian's heart. The ground of that confidence is faith in God. He has promised to be a God unto us, if we will be His people. Having Him as our God, there is nothing else that we can lack. For faith in God implies and involves faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Saved from sin, its guilt and dominion and all its evil consequences, what cause can there be for lack of cheerfulness?

Acts 2:25-28: David rejoiced as by faith he looked forward to the Saviour to come, and as he thought of him his heart rejoiced and his tongue gave expression to his gladness. This is seen in many of his Psalms. Because God had by promise made known to him the ways of life, he rejoiced and was glad. The fulness of his joy came from the thought that he would look upon the countenance of God. God's smile will always make our hearts glad, if we can only see it. And we can see it, if we turn a smiling countenance to Him.

John 16:24-33: "Be of good cheer." Of course we may. We have our Saviour's invitation and promise: "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." When our joy in the Saviour is full we can bear all the trials and sorrows of life. In the midst of the deepest darkness, "be of good cheer," for the dawn is coming, when all the darkness shall be driven away.

What Influence Has Our Joy on Others? When the sun smiles upon

the world it laughs back at its source of light. When it shines upon the storm cloud the rainbow of hope is seen. When it shines upon the raindrops left by the storm, each drop reflects the image and light of the sun.

When our hearts are cheerful other hearts are cheered. They are filled with hope and confidence in God. Even eyes dimmed by the tears caused by great sorrow may be made to smile when with loving cheerfulness we bring the message of God's love and mercy.

What Effect on Our Work Has Joy? Joy lightens our work. Happiness makes the mind alert and the fingers nimble. Joy makes us see our work in its true light, as the call of God. It inspires us to do our best, and thus success is assured.

What Is the Source of Our Cheerfulness? The knowledge that we are the children of a loving, heavenly Father, who is the King of kings and Lord of lords; the knowledge that we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, which he shed for us, when he died on Calvary; the knowledge that he has gone to prepare a place for us in his Father's house of many mansions, and that in his own good time he will come again and take us unto himself, that where he is we may be also, there to abide with him forever more.

Let us share our cheerfulness with others and lead them to the only source of true joy.

A Correction: In the report of the Executive Committee of Publication to the General Assembly there is a slight error, which if not corrected might give rise to a misapprehension.

Regarding Christian Endeavor Societies in our churches, they say that "... these societies report to, and pay dues to the national organization, and do not, as a rule, register at our office."

That they do make annual statistical reports to the United Society of Christian Endeavor (even as many Sunday-schools do to county and State unions) is true, and I have no doubt but that they would also gladly make similar reports to our Committee of Publication if blanks were sent them, or if they were asked to do so.

The statement that they pay dues to any outside organization, however, is incorrect. The United Society of Christian Endeavor, which is the national organization, has never received nor levied any dues on any Christian Endeavor Society, nor does the United Society exercise any control over any society. Each Christian Endeavor Society is an integral part of the church in which it exists, and if in a Southern Presbyterian church is under the sole control of the session of that Church.

In the interests of all concerned I think it is only fair that this statement should be made.

James Lewis Howe,
Southern Presbyterian Trustee of the
United Society of Christian Endeavor.
Lexington, Va.